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MORE SCHOOLS CAN HAVE LUNCH PROGRAMS

Broadcast by Roy Murphy, Chief, School Lunch Section, Civilian Food Requirements Branch, Office of Distribution, and Ruth Van Deman, in the Department of Agriculture portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, Tuesday, January 25, 1944, over stations associated with the Blue Network.

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CURLEY BRADLEY -- (IN CHICAGO) Folks, when you hear that music, think of the paratroopers. It was written for those boys who risk their lives jumping out of planes into enemy territory...and fighting to make the world a better place for other young people to grow up in. While they're fighting, the rest of us can do a little something to see that the kids get a break. We can at least see to it that they get a good noon meal while they're at school. Ruth Van Deman tells me that there's some good news about the School Lunch Program. Let's hear it, Ruth.

SWITCH TO WASHINGTON

VAN DEMAN: All right, Curley. Here's the good news. Many more communities can now get financial help from the Office of Distribution in the War Food Administration in carrying on School Lunch Programs. Incidentally, Office of Distribution is the new name for Food Distribution Administration. Roy Murphy, Chief of the School Lunch Section is here to tell our listeners how their communities can get the assistance. Mr. Murphy, to get right down to brass tacks...There's enough Federal money available now to let schools share in the program.

Murphy: Yes, Congress authorized us to expend up to fifty million dollars--to help schools buy food for their programs.

Van Deman: Now that we know still more can be included..how do we go about it?

Murphy: Well, the first move is up to the people in each community.

Van Deman: A local group such as...a PTA or a nutrition committee, or a church group perhaps?

Murphy: A local school board or a State Department of Education is usually the official sponsor. But any of the groups you mentioned could act as a co-sponsor...and really be a big help.

Van Deman: They could stir up community interest in the School Lunch.

Murphy: Yes...many school boards hold off until they do have the support of local organizations.

Van Deman: Perhaps because they realize it takes more than help on the cost of food to make the program go.

Murphy: Certainly. You have to think about equipment, labor, and supervision as well.

Van Deman: Maybe if one of the civic groups would assume responsibility for the labor and equipment, the school board wouldn't hesitate to go ahead with the rest of the program.

FEB 25 1944

Murphy: That would be true in a great many communities.

Van Deman: Well, when a community gets all set, how does a sponsor go about getting help from the War Food Administration?

Murphy: The sponsor simply applies for assistance on one of our regular application forms. After we set up a working agreement, the sponsor sends up a report every month...just tells us the type of meal served and the amount of food purchased.

Van Deman: Then you pay the sponsor on the basis of that report.

Murphy: Yes. A school serving a complete lunch...we call it a "type A" lunch...receives up to nine cents a meal. For a less complete meal, six cents. And for milk only, it's two cents for every half pint. As you can see, the Federal funds don't cover the entire cost of the food.

Van Deman: And how about results from the expenditure of this money?

Murphy: Four million children are now getting the benefit of the Federal program. We have hundreds of letters from sponsoring groups telling about children who are doing better work, or underweight children who have gained, as a result of school lunches. Those letters show what the school lunch is accomplishing and indicate the tremendous need in other communities. Millions of families have not shared in the wartime prosperity. Then too, many mothers are so busy they don't plan and fix good lunches. In short, many more children need good school lunches.

Van Deman: Well, Mr. Murphy, it's good to know how communities can join in the Federal School Lunch Program.

And, Curley, that's the good news about school lunches. That's the next good news in the music line?

SWITCH TO CHICAGO

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